

January 11, 1995

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Again I would just rise to say that the proposed rule change has potential to take more time, not less, that it does not in any way limit the division of the question nor do I think we should. I think there is very many cases where it is appropriate to separate out issues, especially when we get into more intricate proposals where folks understand a component part, it's easy to adopt those individual parts, move them along. There is not much amending that is done in those areas but when you get down to a specific component of that proposal where it does deal with policy issues, it deals with technical issues where there needs to be amendments and where you have to spend time that the division of a question is a very valuable tool. Can also be used and has been used by many of us for purposes of delaying issues. I don't see where this proposed rule change prevents that at any point. I think clearly what it does is it just delays it and it can be a very useful tool for the principal sponsor of an amendment or it can be used as a foil by someone who is opposed to the proposal that is in front of the body should they choose to divide that issue so that it cannot be amended because what you will then have is a proposal, many cases it's flawed, that people will not support in its present form but were there an amendment to clean it up people would be willing to support it. And what you'll have then is that that divided piece will have to be laid over, it will have to be passed over, you'll have to move to the cleanup proposal which will then fall to the bottom of the list in many cases, especially if you're on Select File and it could lead to literally a longer period of time, more delay than the rules as they currently exist. For that purpose and after listening to the debate, would urge the body to reject this rule change at this point in time. Maybe in the interim the Rules Committee can look at this proposal and see if there is some way to I think protect a very valuable instrument, that being the division of rules and at the same time try and keep it from being used as a delay tactic but I don't believe this proposal meets that goal and I would urge you to vote against it.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Hall, Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, during the last two years, probably division of the question has been among the top two or three topics that have dominated discussions within the Rules Committee and also in my experience with other members of the body, expressing frustration with the